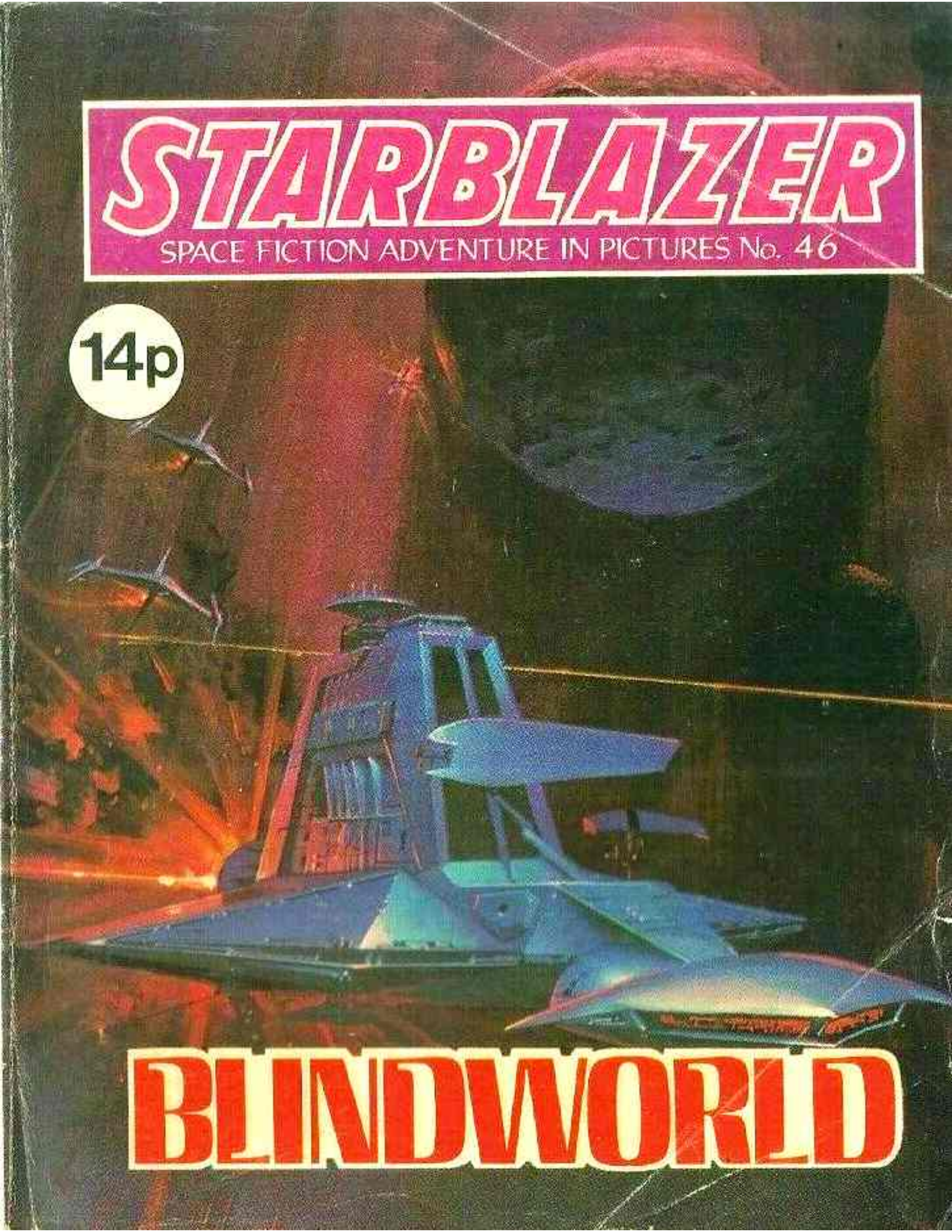
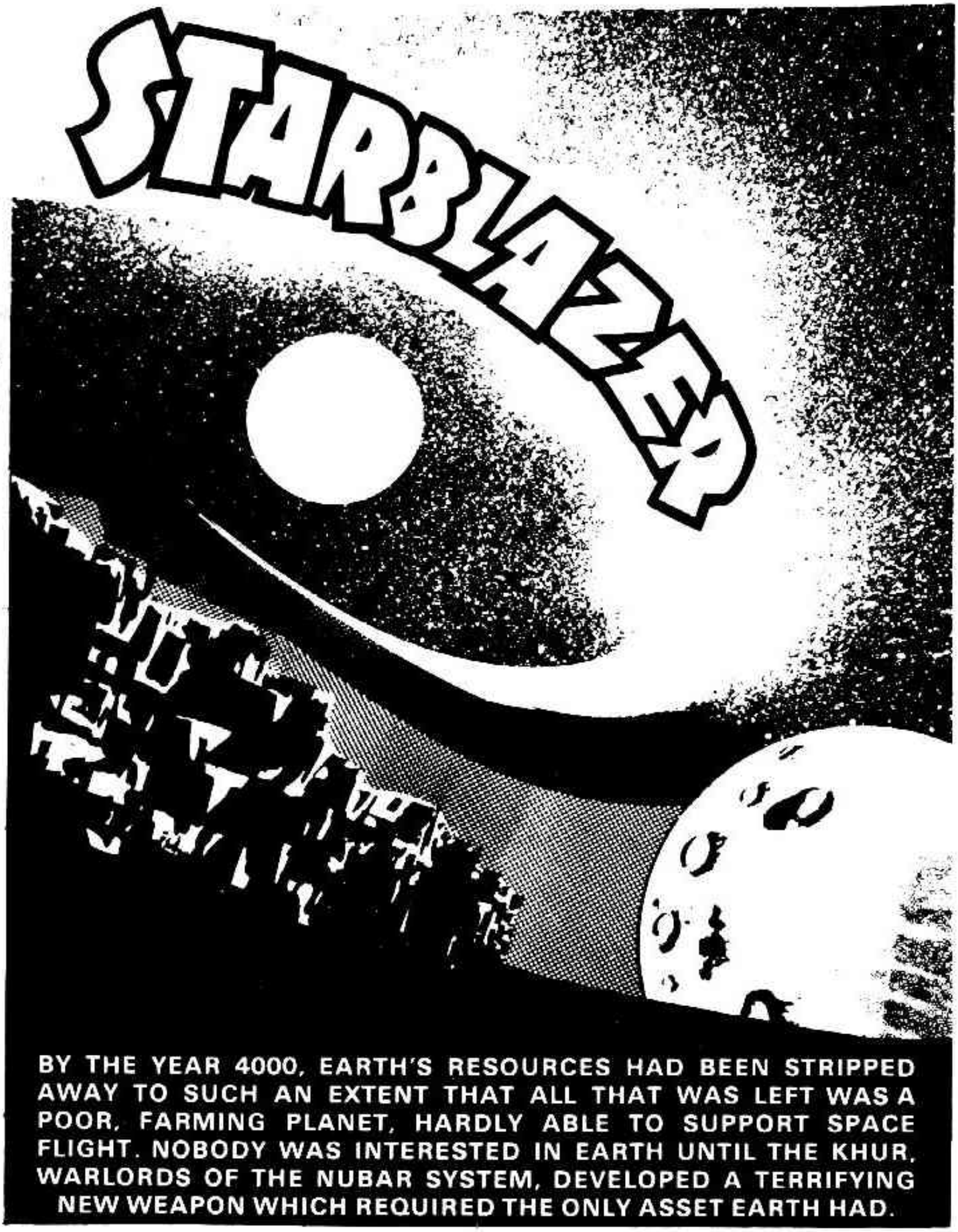
STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 46

14p



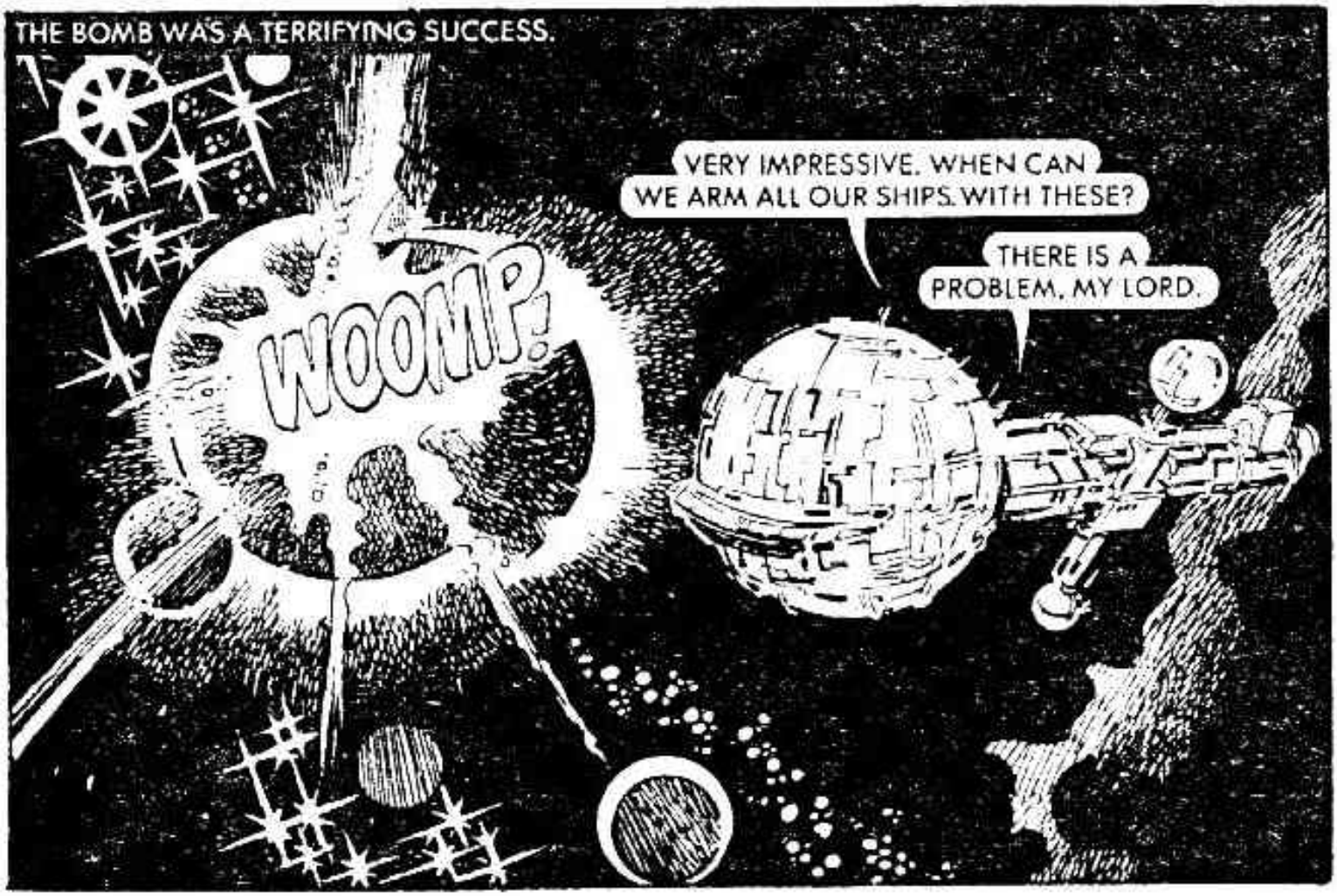
BLINDWORLD


STARBLAZER
BY THE YEAR 4000, EARTH'S RESOURCES HAD BEEN STRIPPED AWAY TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS A POOR, FARMING PLANET, HARDLY ABLE TO SUPPORT SPACE FLIGHT. NOBODY WAS INTERESTED IN EARTH UNTIL THE KHUR, WARLORDS OF THE NUBAR SYSTEM, DEVELOPED A TERRIFYING NEW WEAPON WHICH REQUIRED THE ONLY ASSET EARTH HAD.

BLINDWORLD

IN THE OUTER REACHES OF THE NUBAR SYSTEM, KHUR TECHNICIANS PREPARED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILL.

CONTROLLED BURNING OF THE EXTERIOR SILICON BANDS MAKES THE BOMB SCREW ITSELF INTO THE TARGET'S SURFACE. WHEN THE ZERIUM GOES CRITICAL THE BOMB IS DEEP WITHIN THE TARGET
THE BOMB WAS LAUNCHED.


THE BOMB WAS A TERRIFYING SUCCESS.
WOOMP!
VERY IMPRESSIVE. WHEN CAN WE ARM ALL OUR SHIPS WITH THESE?
THERE IS A PROBLEM, MY LORD.

THERE IS NO MORE SILICON IN THE NUBAR SYSTEM. THERE WAS BARELY ENOUGH FOR THE PROTOTYPE BOMBS.
THEN WE MUST FIND SOME! THIS WEAPON SHALL MAKE US RULERS OF THE GALAXY!

WE HAVE DISCOVERED A PLANET THAT CONSISTS OF 25 PER CENT SILICON IN EASILY-WORKABLE FORM. IT IS POOR AND DEFENCELESS . . . SOL 3 IN A SMALL, NINE PLANET SYSTEM.
THEN IT SHALL BE OURS. SEND AN ORDER TO PREPARE THE FLEET!

SOL III—EARTH—HAD FEW SPACEPORTS LEFT. ONE WAS NEXT TO THE FARM BELONGING TO AUSONE RUX AND HIS SON, TOBAS.
WHY DO YOU PERSISTENTLY PREVENT YOUR SON FROM BECOMING MORE THAN A RESERVE PILOT?
BECAUSE HE IS NEEDED HERE . . . GO . . . TOBAS, GET ON WITH THE PLANTING.

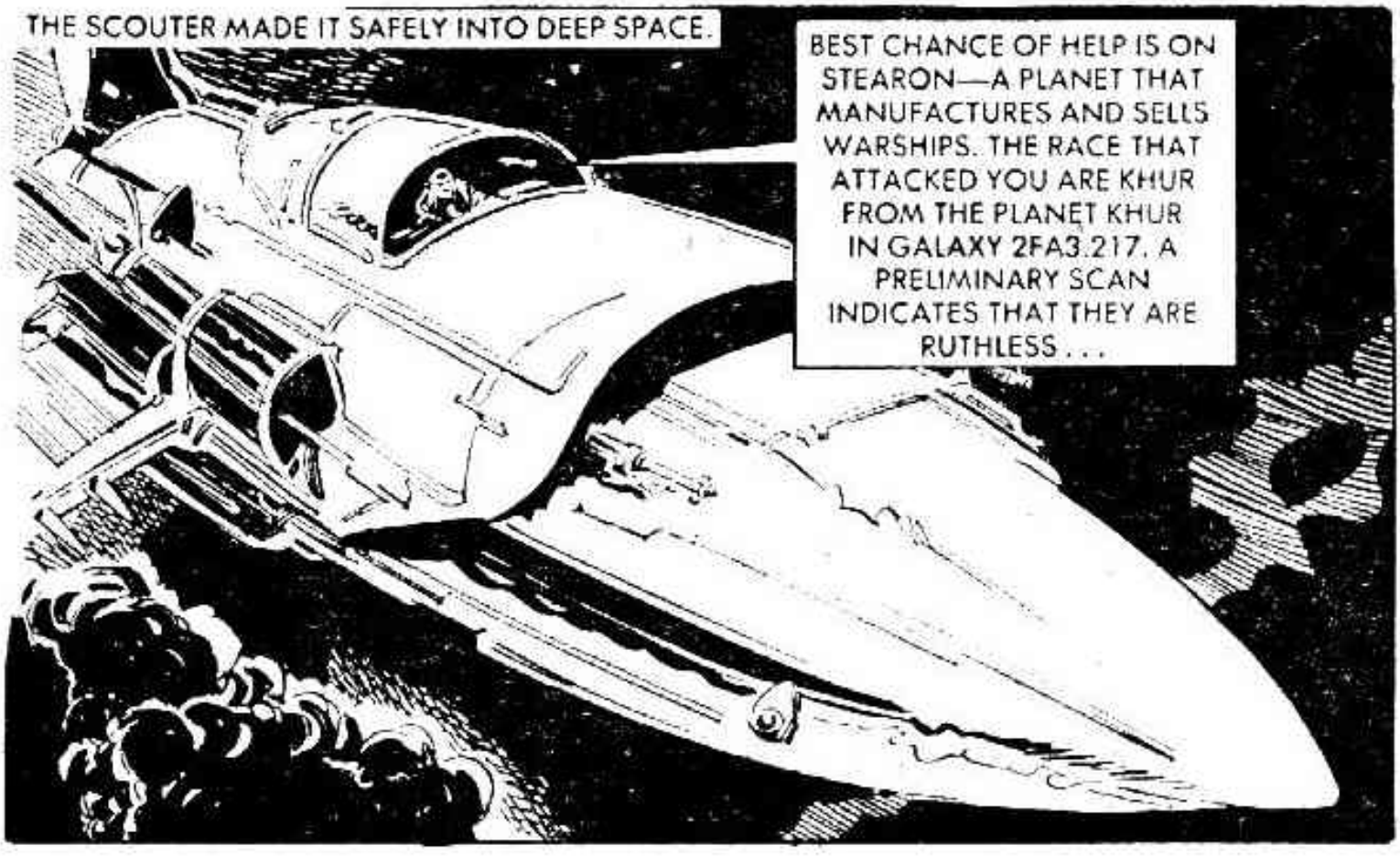
BUT FATE HAD SOMETHING OTHER THAN FARMING IN STORE FOR TOBAS RUX. A FEW DAYS LATER—
WHAT THE . . . THEY'RE GOING TO—FATHER! FATHER!

HE'S DEAD . . . AND BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE AIR COVER.

I'VE GOT TO FIND HELP!

THE SPACEPORT WAS DESERTED, BUT . . .
ONE ANCIENT SCOUTER . . . I WONDER IF IT'S SPACEWORTHY.

A QUICK CHECK INDICATED THE CRAFT WAS SPACEWORTHY AND MOMENTS LATER, TOBAS WAS SKIMMING THE RUINED LANDSCAPE.
THEY'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING! WHAT CAN THEY WANT ON EARTH?


THE SCOUTER MADE IT SAFELY INTO DEEP SPACE.
BEST CHANCE OF HELP IS ON STEARON—A PLANET THAT MANUFACTURES AND SELLS WARSHIPS. THE RACE THAT ATTACKED YOU ARE KHUR FROM THE PLANET KHUR IN GALAXY 2FA3.217. A PRELIMINARY SCAN INDICATES THAT THEY ARE RUTHLESS . . .

ALERT !!
SOMEBODY'S USING LASERS! IF IT'S THE KHUR I'M DONE FOR!

IT LOOKS LIKE A FREIGHTER IS BEING ATTACKED. AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT KHUR SHIPS.

THE AGGRESSOR OPENED FIRE ON TOBAS.
EVASIVE ACTION!

IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED.

TOBAS TWISTED THE SCOUTER OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE . . .

. . . AND USED HIS OWN CANNON.

WITH THE AGGRESSOR DESTROYED, TOBAS TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE CRIPPLED FREIGHTER.
I DOUBT IF ANYONE WILL STILL BE ALIVE IN THERE. I'LL HAVE TO JET OVER.

INSIDE THE RUINED SHIP . . .
ALL DEAD. I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK IN THE COMMAND CABIN.

THE COMMAND CABIN WAS STILL PRESSURISED.
THIS ONE'S STILL ALIVE. I'LL TAKE HIM OVER TO IRONSIDE.

TOBAS TREATED THE INJURED SPACER.
HE'S SHORT OF OXYGEN IN HIS BLOOD—THIS MIGHT BRING HIM ROUND.

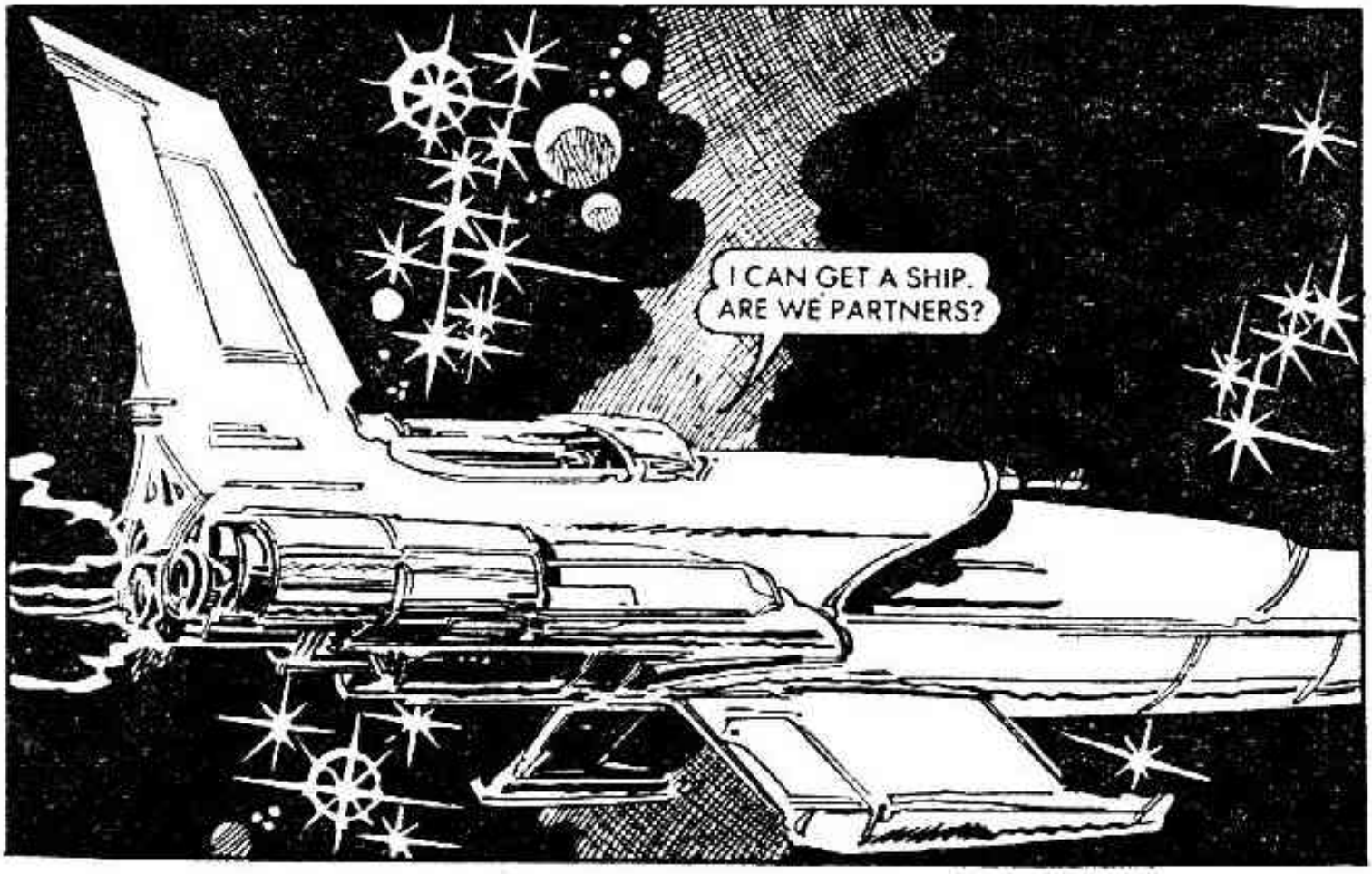
THE MAN SOON CAME ROUND.
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.
I'M NEBLON—MY SHIP WAS ATTACKED BY ANOTHER PRIVATE TRADER.

IN OTHER WORDS A PIRATE! TRUST ME TO GET INVOLVED IN A GANG WAR!
LET'S CALL IT AN UNFRIENDLY DISPUTE. I OWE YOU MY LIFE, SO I'LL SHARE WHAT I HAVE WITH YOU.

KEEP TALKING.
THIS IS WHAT THOSE SPACE-RATS WERE AFTER . . . PIECES OF A STAR MAP. I'VE BEEN COLLECTING THEM FOR YEARS.

EVER HEAR OF BLINDWORLD?
IT'S A LEGEND. THE PLACE WHERE UNTOLD WEALTH CAN BE SCOOPED UP BY ANYBODY BRAVE ENOUGH TO TRY.

IT EXISTS. ANY WHO DARED HAVE COME BACK BLIND. I GOT THESE CHARTS OF ITS LOCATION FROM PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN THERE.
THIS IS A CHART OF QUADRANT 2X/5987/DF. YOU'D NEED AN EPSILON-DRIVE SHIP TO GET THERE BEFORE WE BOTH DIED OF OLD AGE.


I CAN GET A SHIP. ARE WE PARTNERS?

I NEED THE CREDITS.
SET COURSE FOR XAXXU DELTA. KNOW IT?

KNOW IT? I CAN'T TELL HIM I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT OF EARTH-ORBIT BEFORE, BUT I'LL GET THERE!

XAXXU DELTA WAS A WEALTHY, LAWLESS WORLD.
THE LAND BELONGS TO RICH MEN WHO LIVE ON HUGE ESTATES, WITH GUARDS AND HIGH WALLS. IN THE CITIES, NO-ONE ASKS ANY QUESTIONS.

TOBAS AND NEBLON DISEMBARKED.
THERE'S A LANDING FEE AT THIS PORT. A THOUSAND AURIC.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE SHIP'S FOR SALE.

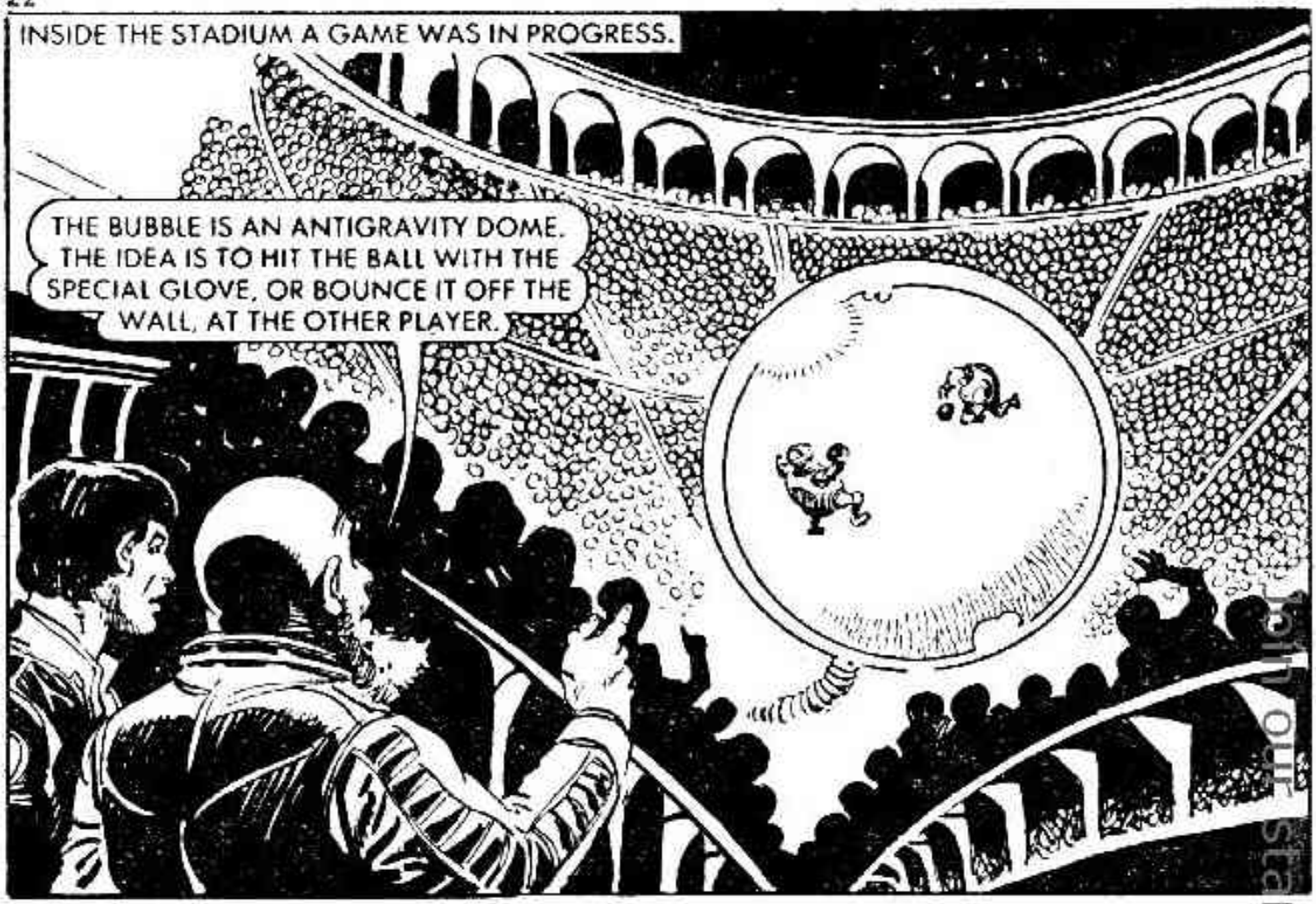
THE PORT OFFICIAL SENT A BUYER ACROSS TO IRONSIDE.
IT'S OBSOLETE, PRIMITIVE. THERE'S NO MARKET FOR THESE EXCEPT FOR SPARES. I'LL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED THOUSAND.
IT'S WORTH A QUARTER OF A MILLION, AND YOU KNOW IT!
A HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND, THEN. I'LL PAY THE PORT FEE.
DONE! WE'RE IN BUSINESS, TOBAS!

A HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND CREDS AREN'T GOING TO BUY US AN EMERGENCY POD AT TODAY'S PRICES!
NO - BUT WE'RE GOING SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING ELSE AT THE MOMENT.

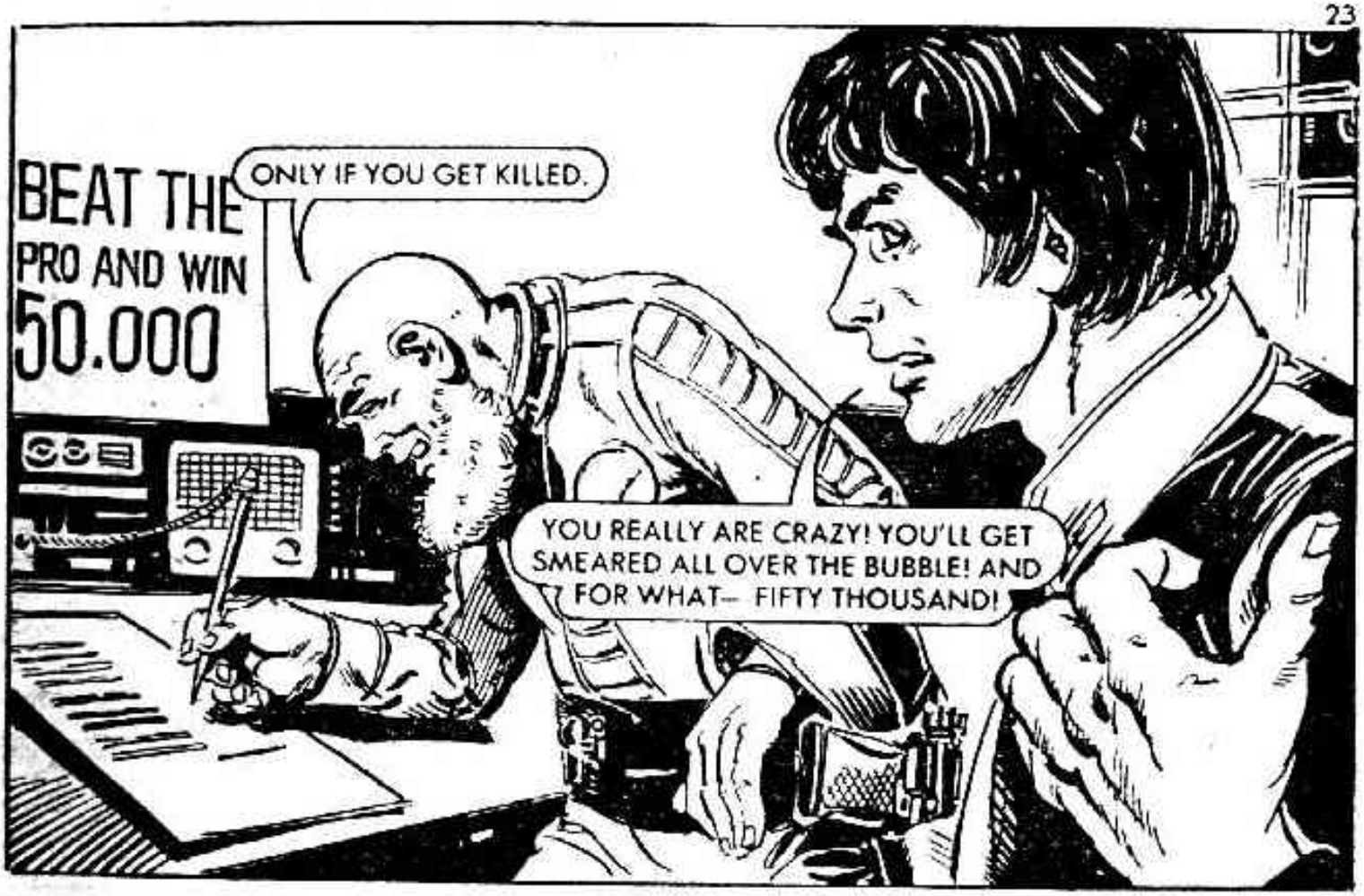
IN THE HEAVILY PATROLLED RETAIL SALES COMPLEX . . .
AGAINST THE WALL!
ARE ALL THE SHOPS LIKE THIS?
THERE ARE A LOT OF SHOPLIFTERS AROUND.
ARMOURED

INSIDE AN ARMOURER'S SHOP.
HOW MUCH ARE THESE IONISERS?
TWELVE HUNDRED EACH.
WE CAN GET BLASTERS FOR THREE HUNDRED!
WHERE WE'RE GOING TONIGHT WE'LL NEED SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL THAN A BLASTER. PUT THIS ON.

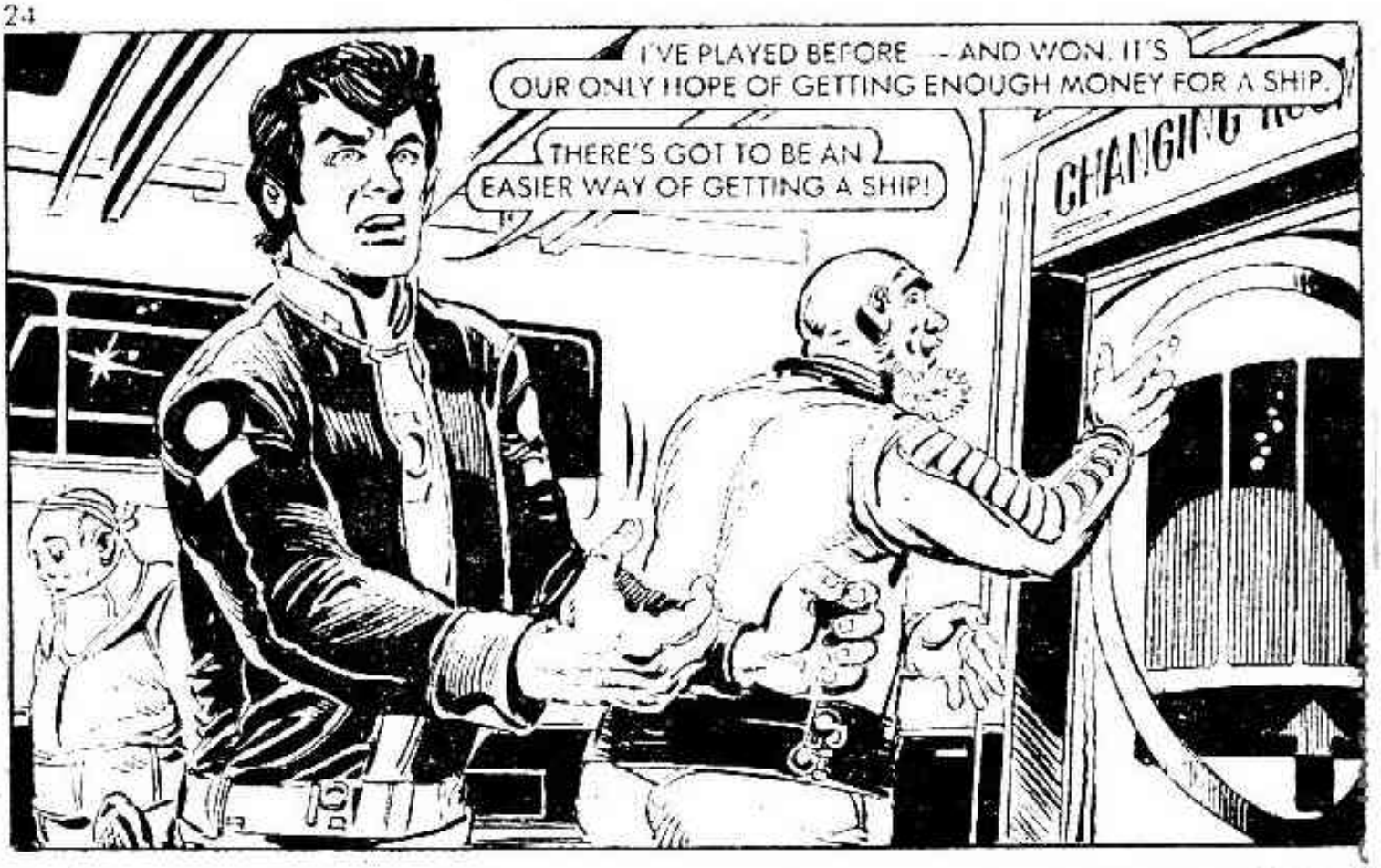
AFTER PURCHASING THE IONISERS NEBLON LED TOBAS TO A SPORTS STADIUM.
ZERO 6 DOME
ZERO BALL DAILY
BIG PRIZES
ZEROBALL? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S WHAT'S GOING TO GET US A BRIGHT NEW SHIP, TOBAS. COME ON


INSIDE THE STADIUM A GAME WAS IN PROGRESS.
THE BUBBLE IS AN ANTIGRAVITY DOME. THE IDEA IS TO HIT THE BALL WITH THE SPECIAL GLOVE, OR BOUNCE IT OFF THE WALL, AT THE OTHER PLAYER.

THE BALL, GLOVE AND THE WALL ARE MADE OF THE SAME MATERIAL. IF THE BALL COMES INTO CONTACT WITH ANY OTHER MATERIAL, IT EXPLODES.
ISN'T IT DANGEROUS?
WANG!


BEAT THE PRO AND WIN 50.000
ONLY IF YOU GET KILLED.
YOU REALLY ARE CRAZY! YOU'LL GET SMEARED ALL OVER THE BUBBLE! AND FOR WHAT— FIFTY THOUSAND!

RIGHT, BROTHER—YOU'RE BETTING A HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND TO BEAT THE CHAMP IN THE NEXT GAME.
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE!


I'VE PLAYED BEFORE -- AND WON. IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF GETTING ENOUGH MONEY FOR A SHIP.
THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EASIER WAY OF GETTING A SHIP!
CHANGING

WHAT ABOUT THESE RICH PEOPLE ON THE ESTATES? WOULDN'T THEY PUT UP SOME MONEY FOR A TRIP TO BLINDWORLD?
BE QUIET!
HUH!

BLINDWORLD? YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT BLINDWORLD? IF YOU WANT TO WALK OUT OF HERE YOU'D BETTER TALK.
GET OUT OF HERE!
I'LL GET HIM, NEBLON.
BUT TOBAS WAS TOO SLOW.
NOW TALK, OR YOUR SPACEMATE'S GOING TO GET BROKEN IN TWO.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TALK!
IF I CAN GET NEBLON'S IONISER, WE HAVE A CHANCE.

BURN!
SO! THE LITTLE ONE'S GOT A STING!
I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU, BOY. TELL ME ABOUT BLINDWORLD!
GO SUPERNOVA!

THE ZERO-G-DOME MANAGER CAME IN TO CALL THE NEXT CONTESTANT.

RIGHT, HERE'S YOUR ARMOUR CLOTHING.

TOBAS! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE. THEY'LL MURDER YOU!
I'VE MORE CHANCE THAN YOU AT THE MOMENT.

GO DOWN FIGHTING, BOY!
I'M NOT GOING DOWN!
GRAVITY LOC
THEY DIDN'T TELL ME THIS WAS THE JUNIOR LEAGUE!
THE PRO'S A BIG ONE, TOO. A LOT OF WEIGHT'S A HELP IN ZERO G.

IT'S THE KID WHO'S GONE INTO THE BUBBLE! NO WAY IS HE GOING TO WIN THE BET . . .
FIRST BALL!
HERE IT COMES.

I'VE ONLY ONE CHANCE HERE.
THAT SHOULD SPOIL YOUR AIM.
THE BALL REBOUNDED FROM THE SIDE OF THE BUBBLE, STRUCK THE PRO, AND THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION THREW HIM UP THE DOME.
NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS!
WAMHG!

SECOND BALL!
THIS KID'S NOT BAD!

THE PRO SENT A FAST BALL AT TOBAS.
THERE'S ONE FOR YOU, KID!

HE'S GOT THE REBOUND — IF I CAN GET OUT OF THE WAY . . . HE'LL GET IT AGAIN — ON THE HELMET.

TOBAS TWISTED DESPERATELY . . .
IT'S ALL YOURS!
WHUP

THE PRO WAS CAUGHTY BY HIS OWN REBOUND
HE'S OUT COLD! I'VE WON THE GAME!
WUMP!

IN THE CHANGING ROOM—
YOU WERE TERRIFIC, TOBAS. LOOK AT THIS! SIXTEEN MILLION! THAT'LL GET US A SHIP AND A HALF!

NEBLON AND TOBAS WENT BACK TO THE SPACEPORT TO BUY A SHIP.
FIFTEEN MILLION—WE CAN HAVE IT READY FOR YOU IN THE MORNING.
IT'S A DEAL. WE'LL BE EARLY, AND WE'LL BRING THE CREDITS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU PAY HIM TONIGHT?
YOU DON'T PART WITH CREDS UNTIL YOU CAN GET THE GOODS, TOBAS. NOW WE NEED A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT.

WORD WILL HAVE GOT AROUND ABOUT OUR WIN. DON'T LET GO OF YOUR IONISER. WE NEED A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT, CLERK.
THAT'LL BE TWO HUNDRED IN ADVANCE.
SLEEP WITH YOUR IONISER IN YOUR HAND. SAFETY SWITCH OFF. IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING, BURN FIRST, THEN ASK.
AREN'T THERE ANY LAWS ON DELTA?

Join our Starforums!

A BLAZE OF LIGHT LIT UP THE ROOM.
NEBLON! THANK THE GALAXY.

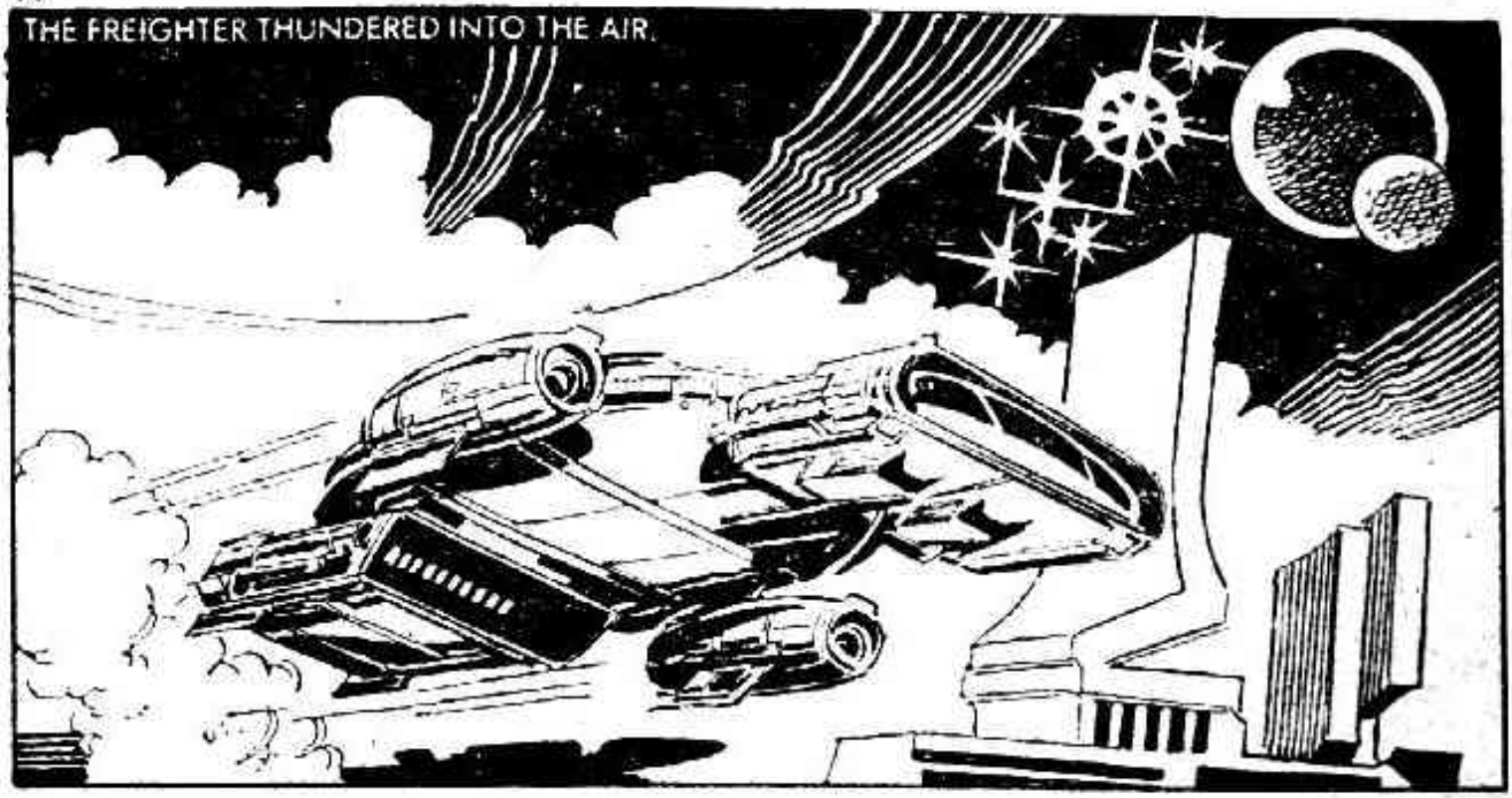
IT'S MORNING— TIME WE WERE AWAY
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ONE?

HE MIGHT BE BACK. IF HE IS, WE'D BETTER NOT BE HERE. ARE THE CREDS SAFE?
YES . . . HIDDEN IN MY BOOTS. IT'S NOT COMFORTABLE BUT IT'S SAFE.

THE SECOND THIEF WAS STILL TRYING TO MAKE SOME CREDITS.
ARE YOU GHAT, THE AGENT THAT WORKS FOR THE KHUR?
I WORK FOR THOSE WHO PAY. WHY?
I'VE GOT INFORMATION TO SELL. IT CONCERNS A SPACER AND A TERRAN.
THE KHUR GOVERN EARTH. NOW, COME OUTSIDE. WE DON'T WANT TO BE OVERHEARD.
THEY'RE PLANNING A LONG RUN. THEY'VE GOT A NEW SHIP AT THE PORT. THEY LEAVE TODAY.
THAT'S INTERESTING INFORMATION. YOU DESERVE PAYMENT FOR IT.

SOON AFTER, GHAT WAS IN COMMUNICATION WHT THE WARLORD OF KHUR ON EARTH.

WITH ONE SHIP?
I'M SENDING YOU ONE OF OUR HELIX BOMBS ON THE LIGHT SHUTTLE. PLACE IT CORRECTLY, AND IT HAS ENOUGH POWER TO DESTROY A THOUSAND SHIPS. UNDERSTOOD?
THE SHUTTLE WILL BE WITH YOU IN TWO UNITS. YOUR SHIP IS FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH A FREIGHTER. DO WELL AND YOU WILL BE REWARDED.
MEANWHILE, TOBAS AND NEBLON WERE PREPARING FOR BLAST-OFF.
THIS THING'S CAPABLE OF 0.7 LIGHT SPEED, SO WE SHOULD BE AT BLINDWORLD IN SIXTEEN UNITS.
IF IT REALLY DOES EXIST.


THE FREIGHTER THUNDERED INTO THE AIR.

I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE CATCHING THEM UP IN THAT. MY TRACKERS ARE ALREADY RECORDING THEIR COURSE.

CRYOGENICALLY FROZEN, TOBAS AND NEBLON EMERGED FROM SLEEP HYPERSPACE ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE BLINDWORLD SYSTEM.
NICE NAVIGATING, TOBAS. THAT'S BLINDWORLD!
IT—IT'S GLOWING!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMONE ELSE GOT HERE FIRST.
YES—ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, BY THE LOOK OF THAT SHIP! LET'S GO OVER THERE.

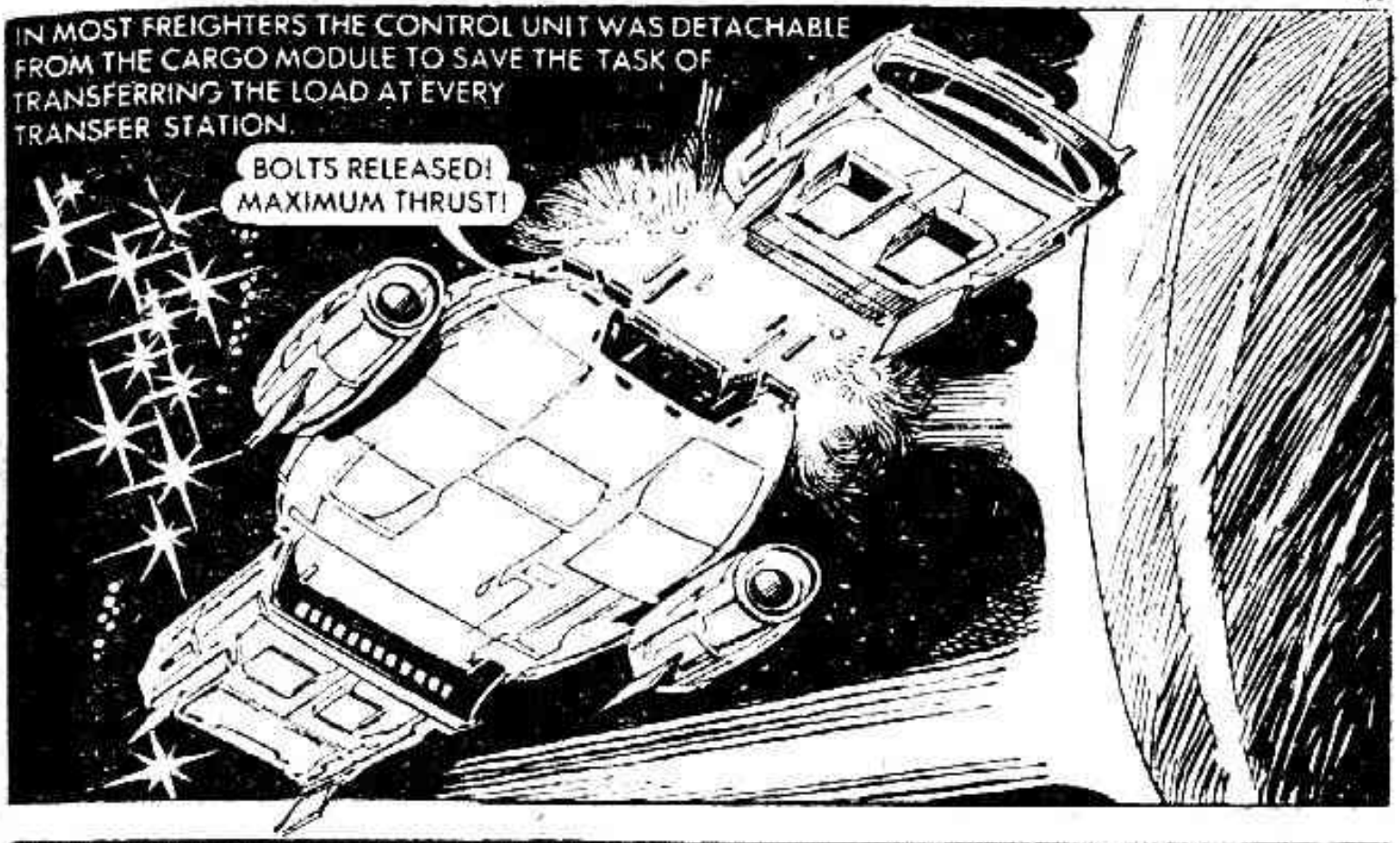
THEY BEAMED ACROSS.
SKELETONS!
THE LEGEND BEGINS TO LOOK TRUE. WE'LL TAKE THESE FLIGHT TAPES BACK TO THE SHIP AND RUN THEM.

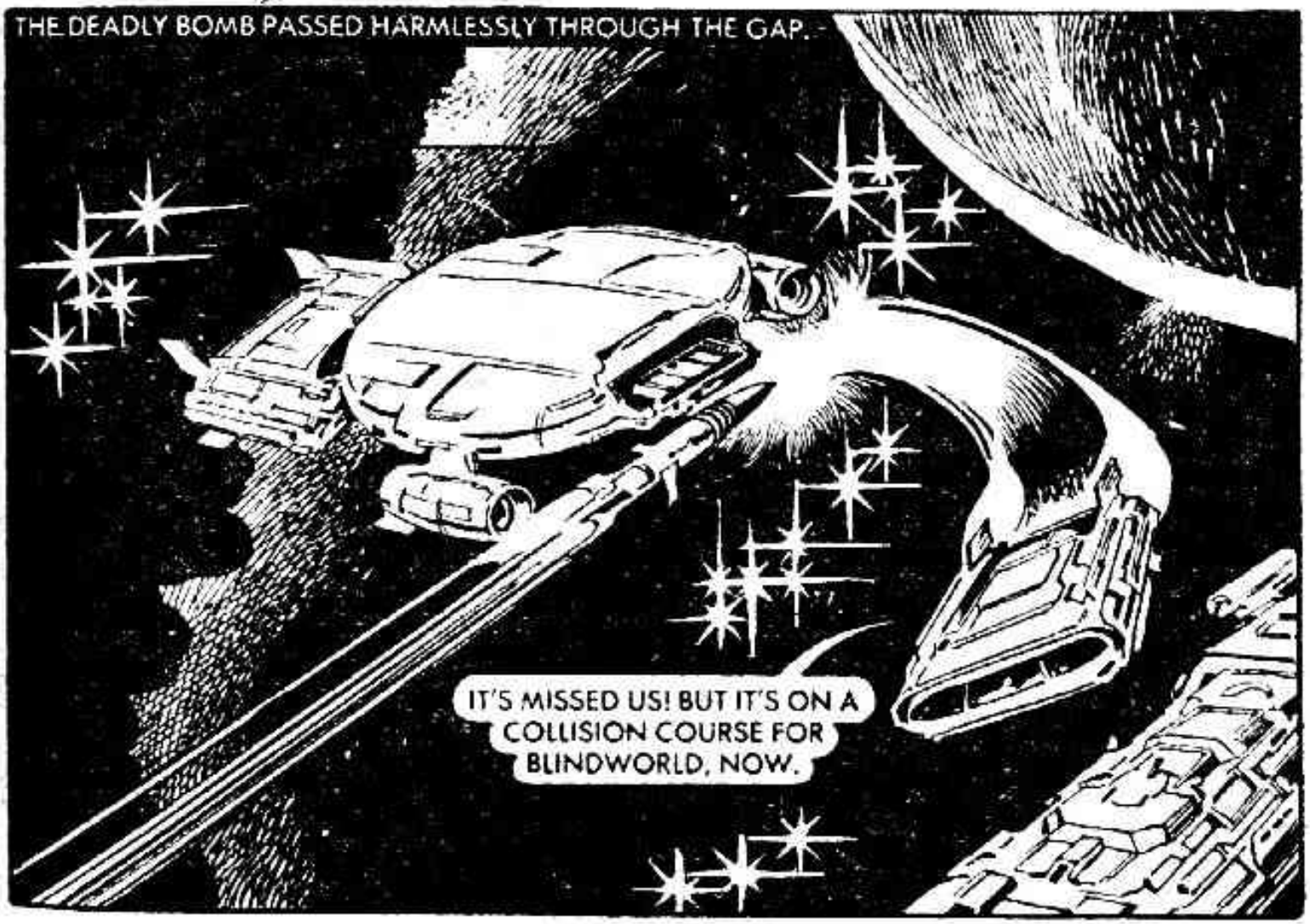
BACK ON THEIR OWN SHIP, THE TAPES WERE RUN.
STARLOG: 14.2.22 . . . BLINDWORLD IS ABOUT TO ECLIPSE ITS OWN SUN, AS SEEN FROM OUR CAMERAS. THE PLANET GLOWS ALL THE TIME. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE . . . NO . . . AAAAH!
CLIK!

BLINDWORLD IS A CRYSTAL PLANET. WHEN IT COMES BETWEEN THE SUN AND THE WATCHERS, IT ACTS AS A GIANT LENS, MAGNIFYING THE LIGHT.

THE CONCENTRATED LIGHT RUPTURED THE CRAFT'S SOLAR PANELS, AND BLINDED THE CREW. THE SHIP WOULD HEAT UP AND LITERALLY BOIL THE CREW.

SOME DISTANCE AWAY, GHAT CAME OUT OF HYPERSPACE.
THERE THEY ARE— BUT NO FLEET.
MY SCANNERS REGISTER THAT PLANET AS . . . NO IT'S CAN'T BE! ITS . . . BLINDWORLD. I'LL BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE GALAXY.
SILENTLY, UNSEEN, AND WITH DEADLY ACCURACY, GHAT AIMED THE VICIOUS HELIX BOMB AT THE FREIGHTER.
ALERT!
SOMEBODY'S SHOOTING AT US! IT'S COMING TOO FAST TO EVADE!
RELEASE THE LINKING BOLTS.


IN MOST FREIGHTERS THE CONTROL UNIT WAS DETACHABLE FROM THE CARGO MODULE TO SAVE THE TASK OF TRANSFERRING THE LOAD AT EVERY TRANSFER STATION.
BOLTS RELEASED! MAXIMUM THRUST!


THE DEADLY BOMB PASSED HARMLESSLY THROUGH THE GAP.
IT'S MISSED US! BUT IT'S ON A COLLISION COURSE FOR BLINDWORLD, NOW.

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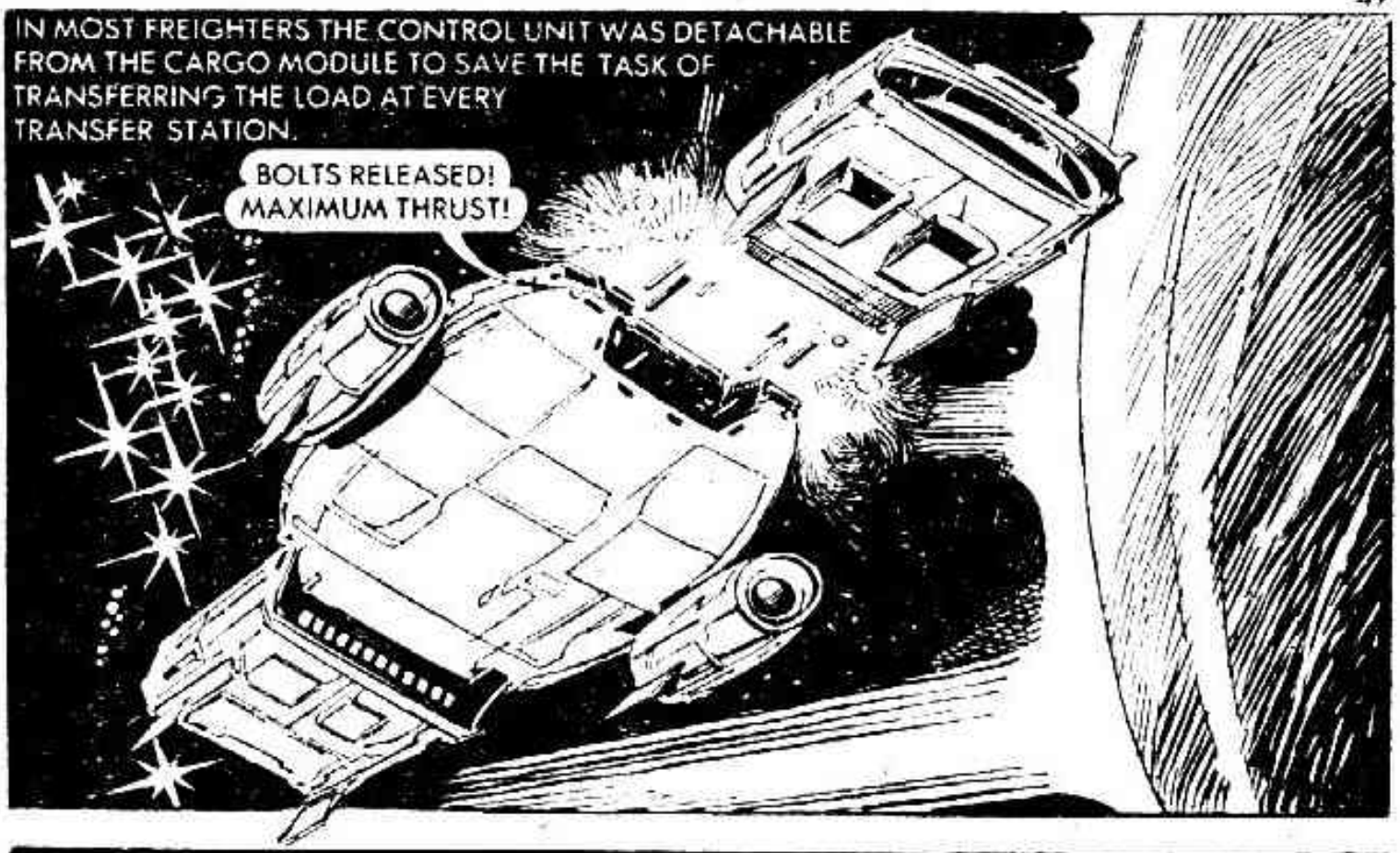
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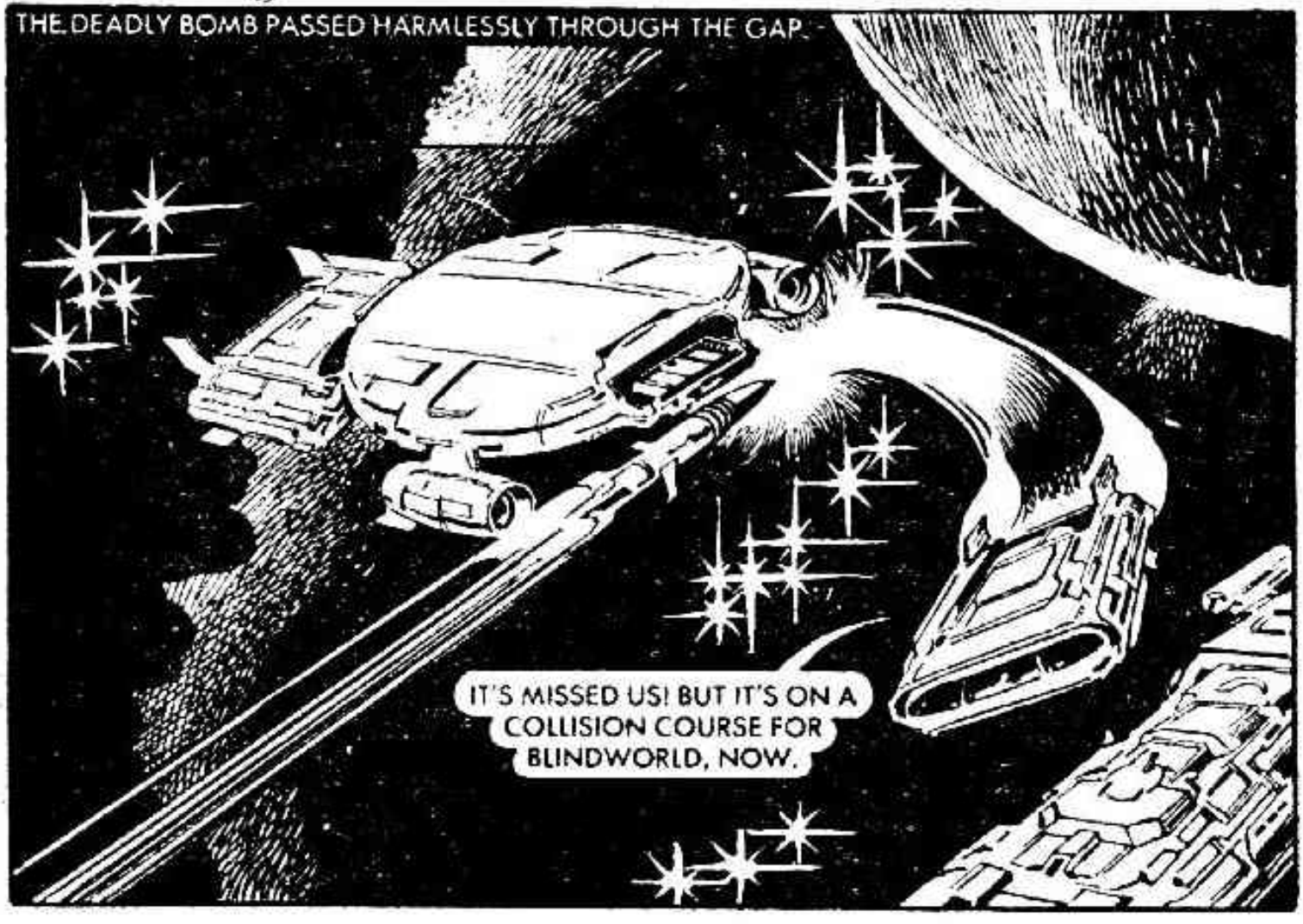
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SECONDS LATER TOBAS AND NEBLON WERE SAFELY OUT OF DANGER, BUT GHAT WASN'T.
TOO FAST! I CAN'T TURN—AND THE HELIX BOMB IS STARTING TO BURY ITSELF!

BLINDWORLD EXPLODED IN A WHITE HOT BURST OF FRAGMENTS.
GOODBYE, BLINDWORLD!

GREAT SHARDS OF THE RUINED PLANET BATTERED THE HULL OF THE FREIGHTER.
I'VE GOT A THEORY ABOUT THAT, TOO! GET YOUR SUIT ON, I WANT TO EXAMINE THOSE ROCKS!

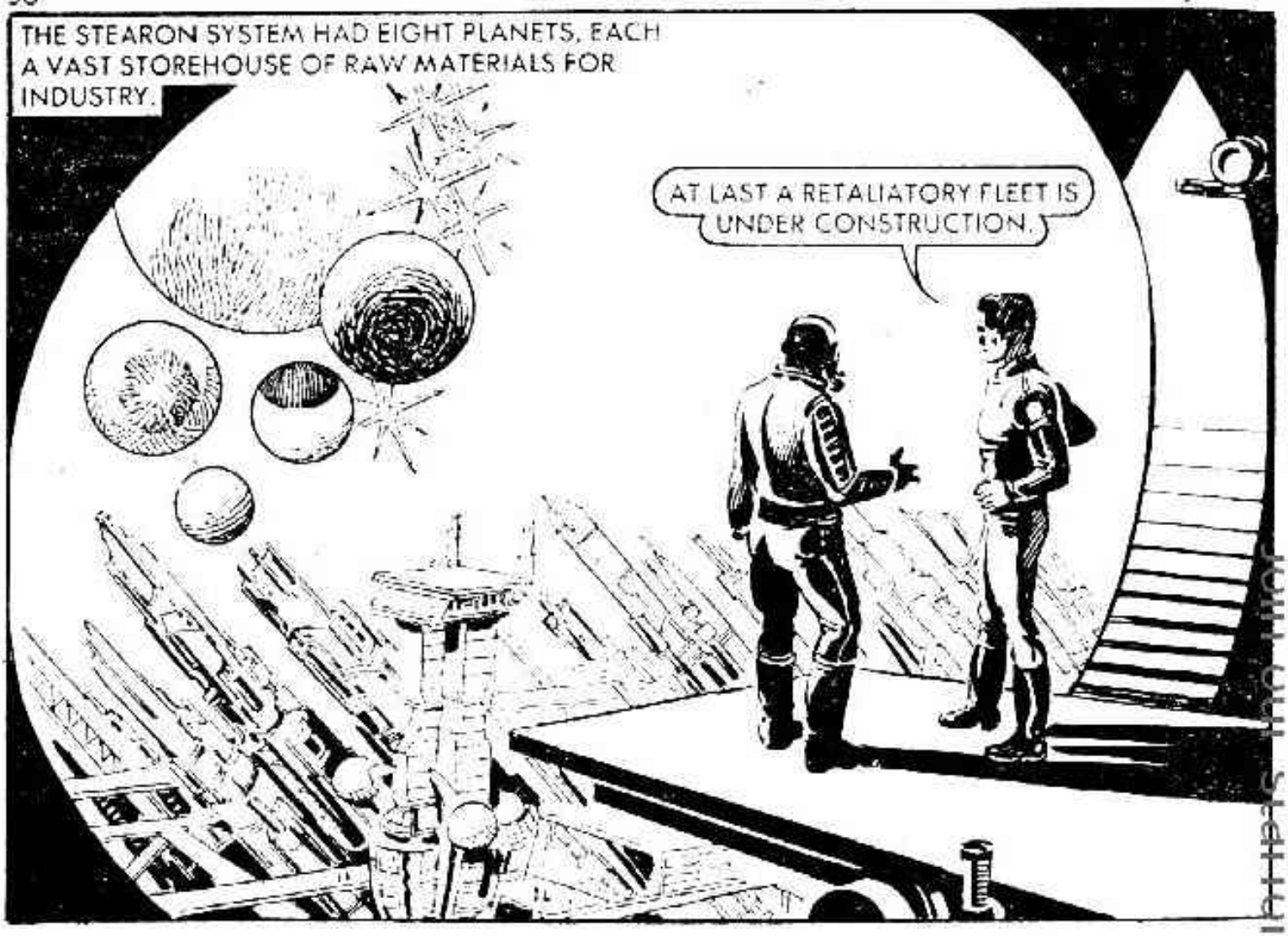
TOBAS AND NEBLON FLOATED OUT TO THE ROCKS,
I THOUGHT SO— THE PLANET WAS ONE HUGE DIAMOND CREATED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO BY THE ACTION OF HEAT ON CARBON!
WE'RE RICH!

WE'VE GOT SOME FISHING TO DO, NEBLON, THEN I WANT TO GO TO STEARON—THE ARMAMENTS PLANET!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, SPACEMATE!

AFTER MANY UNITS OF COLLECTING DIAMONDS—
THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF BILLIONS OF CREDITS HERE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR SHARE?
GO TO STEARON, BUY SHIPS, HIRE MEN, AND FIGHT THE KHUR BACK INTO THE RATHOLE THEY CAME FROM!

THE COURSE FOR STEARON IS SET.
LET'S GO!

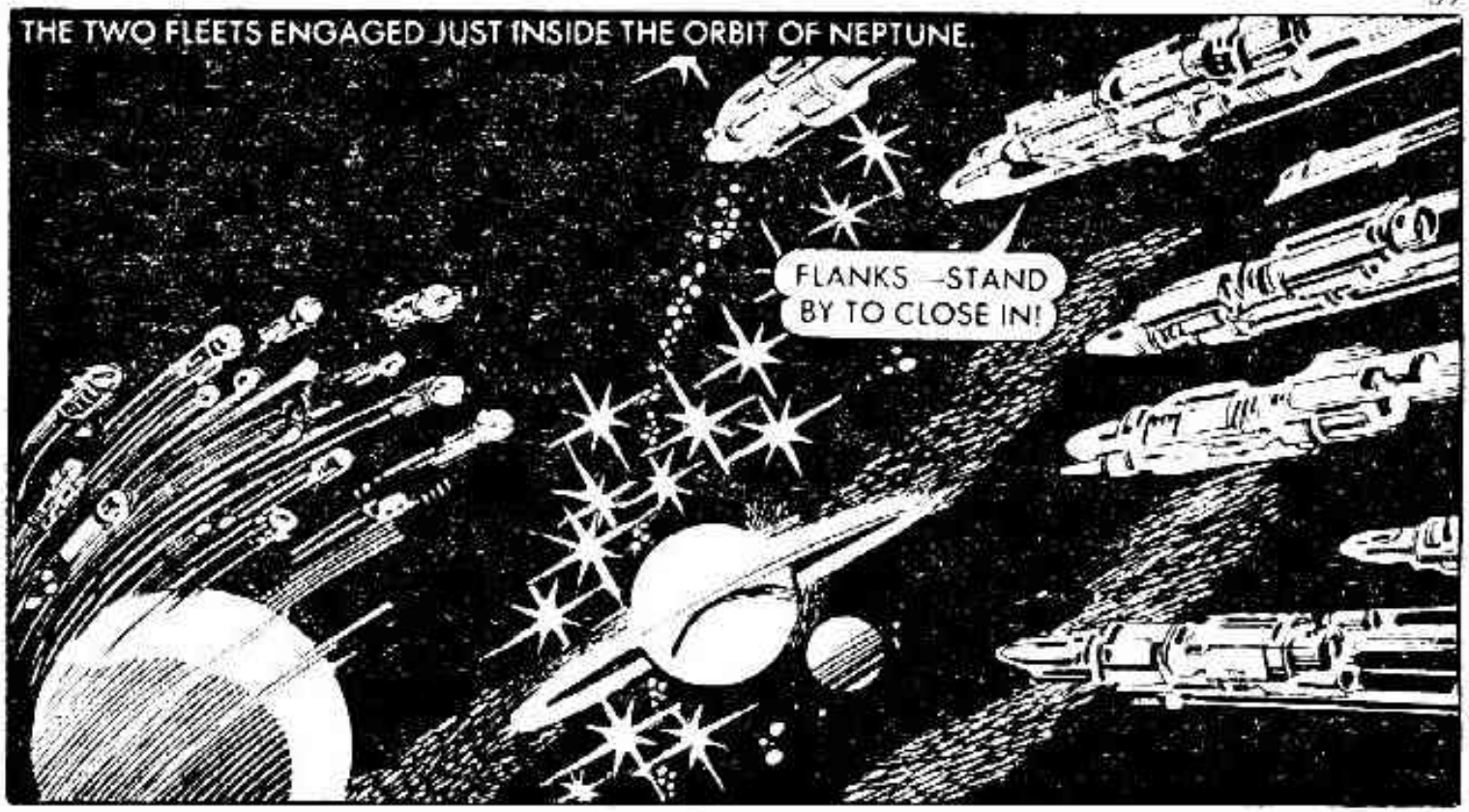
MANY PARSECS LATER, THE FREIGHTER MADE PLANETFALL ON STEARON.
I NEED A HUNDRED FIGHTING CRUISERS, AND MEN TO FLY THEM. CAN YOU SUPPLY THEM?
WE CAN SUPPLY THEM— IF YOU CAN AFFORD THEM!

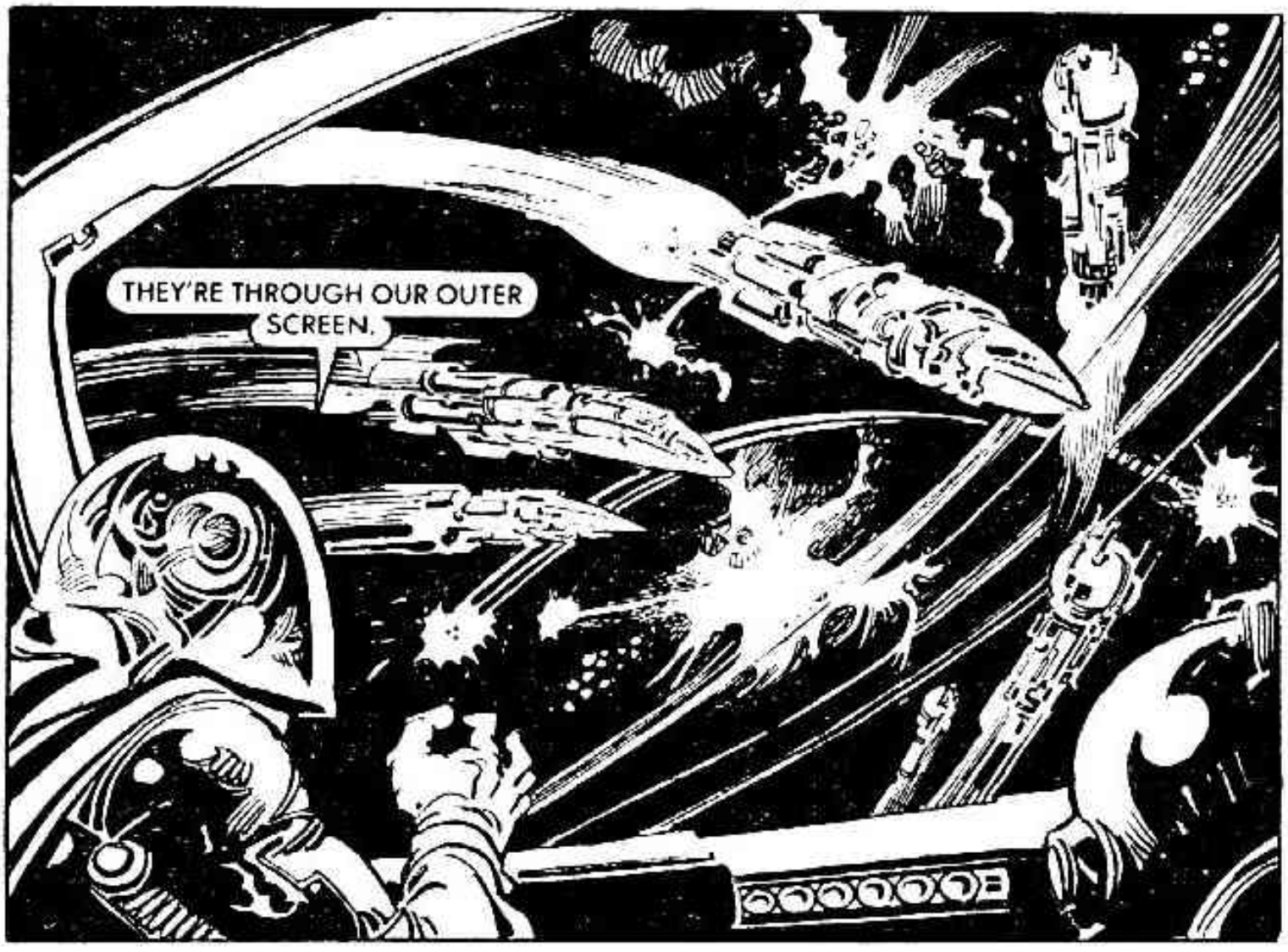

THE STEARON SYSTEM HAD EIGHT PLANETS, EACH A VAST STOREHOUSE OF RAW MATERIALS FOR INDUSTRY.
AT LAST A RETALIATORY FLEET IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.
John Cullen Steahl

WITHIN SIX SOLAR MONTHS, THE GREAT FLEET WAS READY.
THE KHUR ARE A CURSE ON CIVILISATION. YOU HAVE MY BEST MEN. I WISH YOU WELL.
THANK YOU, COMMANDANT.

WE STILL HAVE NEARLY HALF THE CARGO LEFT- MY HALF. THIS ISN'T MY FIGHT, SO I'LL KEEP OUT OF IT.
THE FLEET BLASTED OFF FOR THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
AS THE OVERALL COMMANDER OF THE FLEET, SIR, IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT IF YOU WOULD ASSUME THE RANK OF ADMIRAL.
I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS MORE TO LIFE THAN FARMING!

ON EARTH THE KHUR HAD BEGUN SILICON MINING.
THE WHOLE SYSTEM IS NOW READY, MY LORD.
EXCELLENT!
WE SHOULD HAVE THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT WITHIN A FEW HOURS, MY LORD!
MY LORD! SENSORS REPORT A GREAT FLEET OF BATTLE-CRUISERS OUTSIDE THE ORBIT OF PLUTO!
RED ALERT! ALL UNITS INTO ACTION!

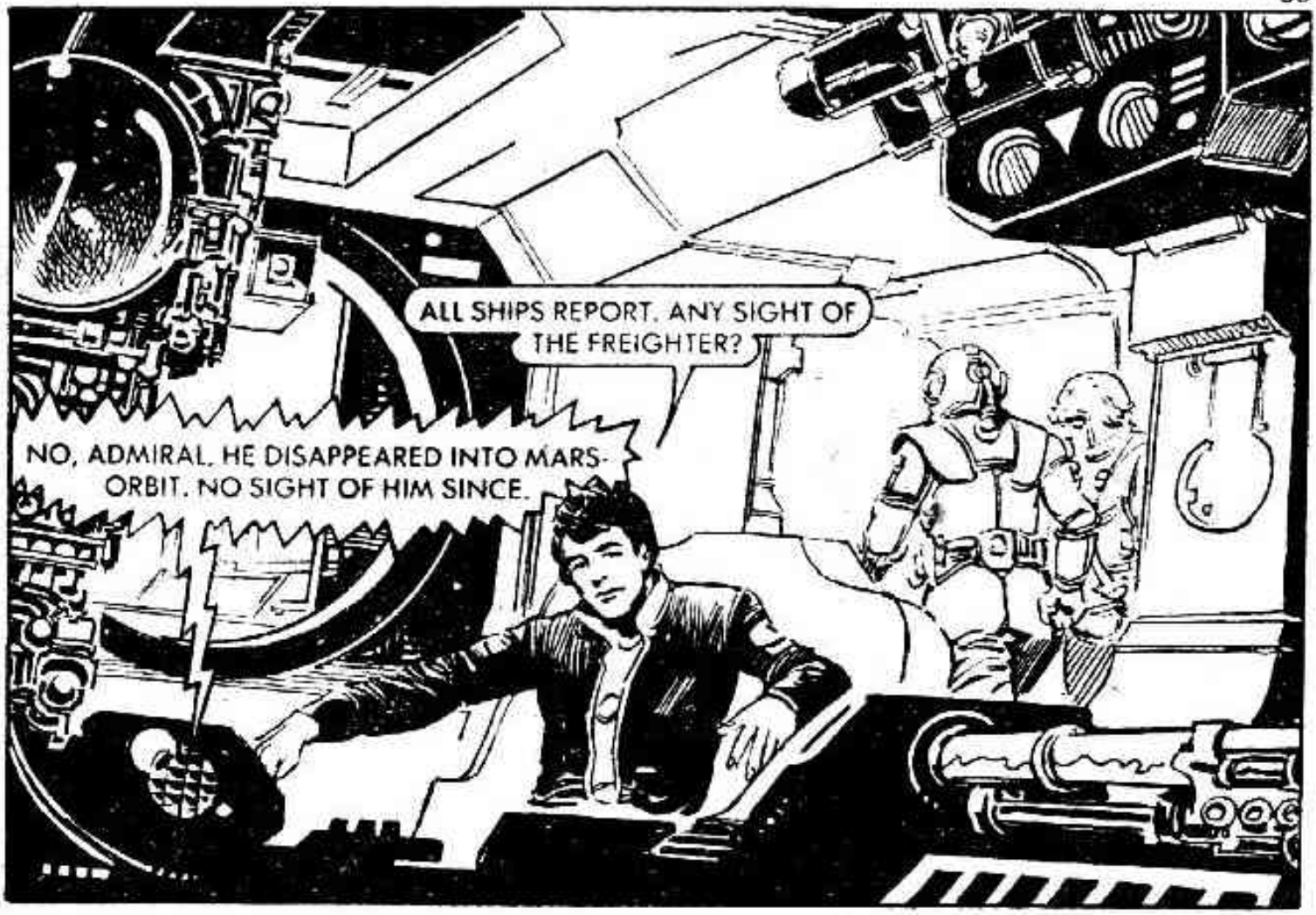

THE TWO FLEETS ENGAGED JUST INSIDE THE ORBIT OF NEPTUNE.
FLANKS —STAND BY TO CLOSE IN!


THEY'RE THROUGH OUR OUTER SCREEN.

THE FLEETS FOUGHT ALL THE WAY TO SATURN.
HERE COMES ANOTHER VULTURE.
DON'T AIM AT THE NOSE---AIM FOR THE STERN MODULE

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO HIT THEM?
THAT'S WHERE THE ENGINES ARE LOCATED. IT'S RATHER EMBARRASSING . . .
. . . WE ORIGINALLY BUILT THOSE SHIPS FOR THE KHUR—BEFORE WE FOUND OUT WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE THEY WERE—AND THEY HAD A FORCEFIELD WEAKNESS.

BY THE TIME THE FLEET WAS IN SIGHT OF MARS, THE BATTLE WAS ALL BUT WON.
THEY'RE ON THE RUN, SIR. WE HAVE THE FIRE-POWER TO DESTROY THEM.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY— THEY'LL SURRENDER.
THE OBJECT OF WAR IS TO WIN. WE'VE WON! REGROUP THE FLEET IN EARTH ORBIT.
WITHIN AN HOUR, THE FLEET WAS IN EARTH ORBIT.
ONLY FOUR SHIPS LOST! AND MOST OF THEIR CREWS RESCUED AS WELL!
YES. THEY WON'T TROUBLE EARTH AGAIN!


ALL SHIPS REPORT. ANY SIGHT OF THE FREIGHTER?
NO, ADMIRAL. HE DISAPPEARED INTO MARS-ORBIT. NO SIGHT OF HIM SINCE.

NEBLON! ONCE A PIRATE, ALWAYS A PIRATE!

I THOUGHT HE WAS A FRIEND. WITHOUT HIM EARTH WOULD STILL BE UNDER THE KHUR. BUT THE REST OF THAT CARGO WOULD HAVE HELPED OUR PEOPLE SO MUCH!

THE FLEET LANDED AT THE OLD SPACEPORT.
THANK YOU, COMMANDER. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE HEADING BACK TO STEARON, NOW?
YES, SIR. I'LL LEAVE A CONTINGENT OF MEN HERE TO TRAIN YOUR PEOPLE IN THE HANDLING OF THE SHIPS.

AS THE STEARON COMMANDER HEADED HOME, THE FREIGHTER SWEPT IN.
NEBLON!
WELL, SPACEMATE, YOU FIGHT BATTLES ALMOST AS WELL AS YOU PLAY ZEROBALL!

TOBAS AND NEBLON HEADED FOR THE FARM.
THOUGHT I'D RUN OUT ON YOU, DID YOU? A KHUR FIGHTER PICKED ME UP. I HAD TO BURN HIM UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARS. I DAMAGED THE DRIVE SO THE JOURNEY HERE TOOK A BIT LONGER.
I TAKE IT YOUR RUNNING DAYS ARE OVER! YOU SEE, I HAVE A FARM THAT NEEDS TWO PEOPLE TO RUN . . .
FROM THE CHAOS OF WAR, A FRIENDSHIP HAD EMERGED.
A FRIENDSHIP THAT COULD BLAZE THE TRAIL OF PEACE THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.

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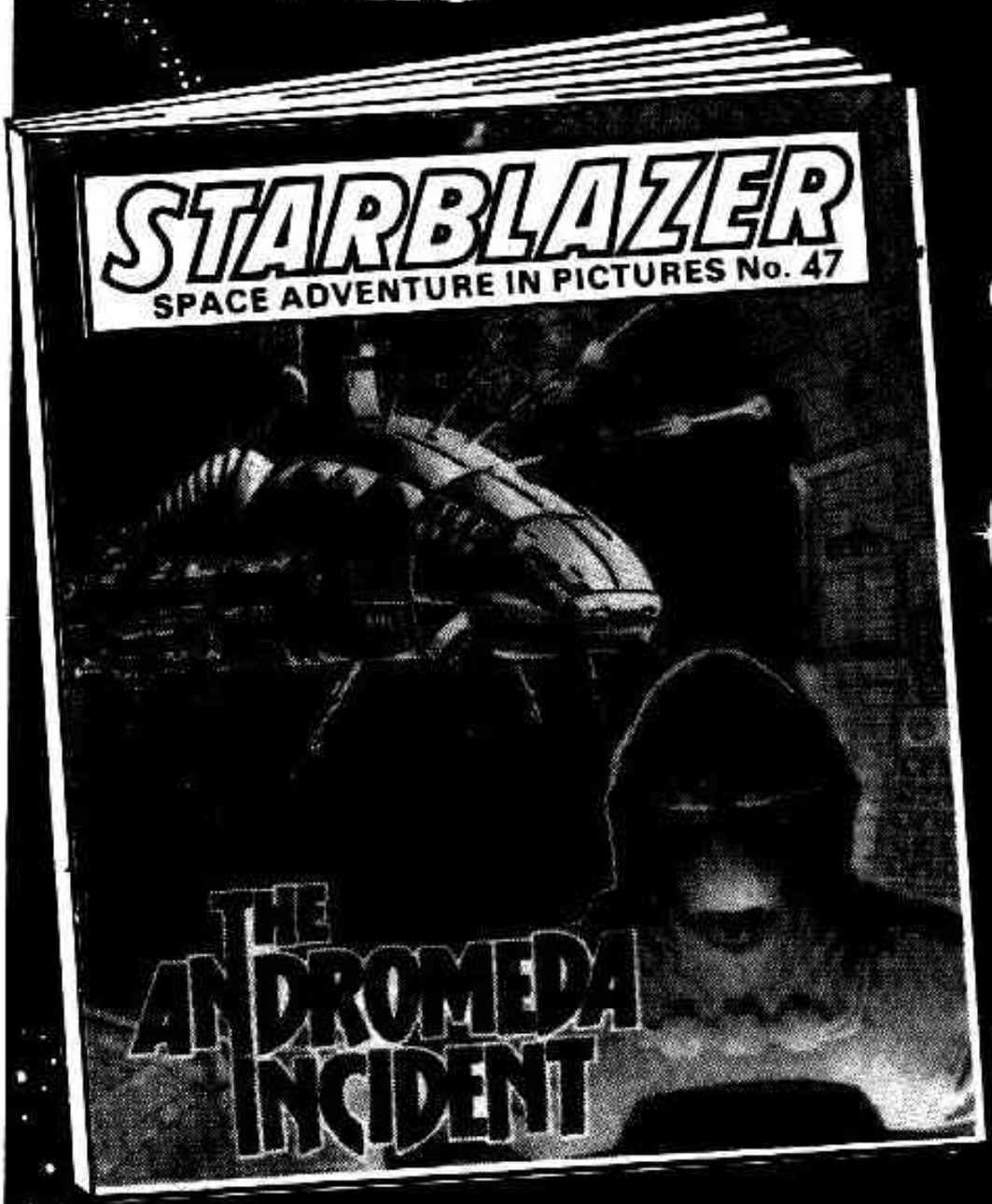
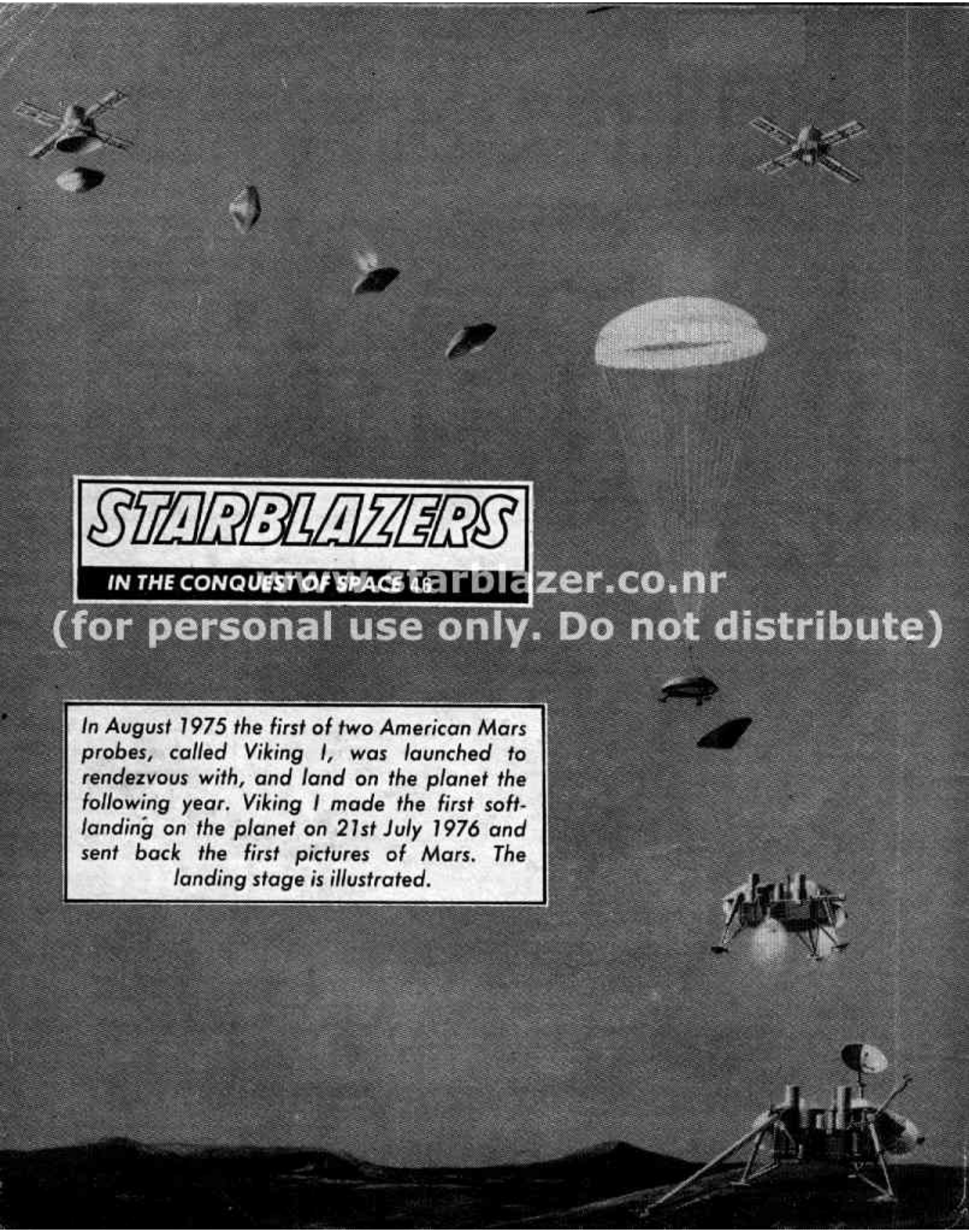
NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THIS



DON'T FORGET THAT THERE'S ANOTHER ONE THIS MONTH

IT'S ON SALE IN YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!



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In August 1975 the first of two American Mars probes, called Viking I, was launched to rendezvous with, and land on the planet the following year. Viking I made the first soft-landing on the planet on 21st July 1976 and sent back the first pictures of Mars. The landing stage is illustrated.